

Press Intelligence, Inc.
WASHINGTON 1, D. C.

COLUMBIA (S.C.) RECORD

Circ.: e. 28,970

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Date: DEC 1 1952

Eisenhower's Cabinet --- An Able, Balanced Team

President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower's cabinet is all but complete and the quality and the balance of it is something new in American political history.

Geography, of course, is taken into consideration but the key to General Eisenhower's choices seems to be ability to do the job. And it has been a long time since ability was given cabinet rank in the United States.

This was, of course, taken for granted in Eisenhower's case and it was the secret of his success in conducting his crusade in Europe and in building up the NATO forces. General Bedell Smith, now the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was Eisenhower's chief of staff during the war. General Alfred M. Gruenther was his chief of staff at SHAPE. Both are able men. It was expected, therefore, that the general as President would emphasize ability and capacity.

The general is acting speedily—his cabinet is being appointed far in advance of any other cabinet in history—but he is not acting casually. He is applying a very definite measuring rod to every appointment. Primarily that measuring rod is experience, pertinent experience, related to the job to be done.

No American has a longer and deeper background in foreign affairs than John Foster Dulles and no Republican knows the inside of the State Department any more intimately. Mr. Dulles can negotiate with the Russians, if ever the opportunity for such negotiation arises, on a realistic basis without being accused of appeasement.

The appointment of Charles E. Wilson as Secretary of Defense is another superbly logical choice. If any man can inject business efficiency into the Defense Department's ramifications, Mr. Wilson is the man to do it. He is the one American who will

not be awed by the Pentagon's vastness. He's accustomed to big enterprises. He knows, also, that industrial strength is the basic source of security and he knows how to translate that industrial strength into armed strength.

Herbert Brownell, the new Attorney General, is one of the keenest minds in the cabinet, a man of high integrity. The Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey of Cleveland is not a Wall Streeter but a successful midland industrialist. He knows how to do a job. Governor Douglas McKay, of Oregon, named Secretary of the Interior, believes in public power, but he does not believe in the valley authorities advocated by the Roosevelt and Truman administrations. The Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson of Utah is an expert on farm cooperatives. He is, in the Mormon tradition, a supporter of effective measures of self-help. The Postmaster General will be Arthur Summerfield, who served as chairman of the national committee for Eisenhower's campaign, but who will resign the national chairmanship before taking office. He is an automobile dealer, rather inexperienced in politics.

There isn't a political hack in the lot. And the entire group seems also to be free from any rigid ideological stamp. All are practical persons, doers rather than theorists, chosen for their ability rather than their adherence to any partisan group in the Republican Party. Eisenhower is not applying the Farley test to his cabinet choices. It is not necessary that a man should have been for Eisenhower before Chicago. Included in the cabinet are some supporters of Senator Taft, although the Ohio Senator did not recommend them.

The result is an exceedingly strong and diversified federal team—a group of high talent and no politics. It is an augury of an era of good government.